



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

U3A Port Hills Inc

Website: www.u3aporthills.org.nz

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Port Hills U3A Newsletter December 2024



Next Meeting: Wednesday, 4 December

Venue: St Martin's Presbyterian Church, 43 St Martins Road, St Martins

There will be no morning tea before the speaker at the December meeting. Instead, we will be having our Christmas morning tea after the speaker.

Please plan to arrive at the meeting by 9:50 so you can be seated before the speaker starts his presentation at 10am.

10:00 Speaker: Dr Graham Sattler, CEO The CSO Past, Present and Present
Canterbury Symphony Orchestra

Dr Sattler will present his vision for the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, and the trajectory the orchestra has taken since its beginnings over 65 years ago. He will talk about the orchestra's development as an integral part of the cultural and artistic infrastructure of Ōtautahi Christchurch, Te Waipounamu South Island and Aotearoa New Zealand. generally.

Dr. Graham holds qualifications in music education, conducting, opera and psychology of risk. From 2001 – 2021 Graham led Regional Conservatoriums in NSW, Australia. He spent the first three months of last year investigating best-practice musical inclusion and community music leadership training programs in the US, Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Norway, Portugal, and Armenia. He is a member of the International and Australian Societies for Music Education and the Asia Pacific Community Music Network.



*After our speaker finishes his presentation,
please stay for our Christmas Morning Tea in the Lounge.*

The Geopark Bus Tour 2024

On Thursday 31st of October we were treated to an interesting and informative tour of four significant geological sites led by Dr Sam Hampton, Geologist and Director of



At each of the four sites we were told the history of the eruption, and Sam pointed out the ancient lava flows embedded in the hills around Banks Peninsula from three major historical volcanic eruptions, the Lyttleton, Akaroa, and Mt Herbert eruptions.

Sam's explanations were clear and easy to understand and the maps he showed greatly helped in understanding the geological history of the local area and of the whole of the South and North Islands.

Thanks to Cathy Goulter for the photos.

Stop 1:

Our first stop was at Victoria Park where we examined the outcrop of volcanic rock beneath the playground. Sam showed us geological maps of the North and South Islands which showed the geological differences between the two islands.



Stop 2:

We then went to the John Jameson Lookout near the Sign of the Bellbird and learned about the evolution of Banks Peninsula's volcanism and could see the large scale evidence within the landscape.



Stop 3:

We ate our brought lunch in Scarborough Park near the Clock Tower in the Sumner, and afterwards we had a short walk to a site by the road to examine the layers of exposed rock in the cliff face.



Stop 4:

Our last stop was at Heathcote Domain, Heathcote Valley to see the impact of earthquakes, red zoning, rockfall and mitigation.



Future Speakers

2025

Date	Speaker	Topic
February	TBA	
March	Antony Bush	Canterbury Sport and Spinal
April	Dame Sue Bagshaw	Youth Hub



Lecture Series 2025

Next year, 2025, we will be holding two lecture series, one in May and the other in August. The first series entitled **Local to Global** (4 lectures) will be run on each Monday morning in May at 10 am. They will be held in the lounge area of St Martins Presbyterian church where we have our monthly meetings. Each lecture will be approximately 50 mins long. No tea or coffee will be served.

The second series of 5 lectures entitled **Extraordinary New Zealanders in WW1 and WW2** will be run in August on each Friday morning. The venue will be the same as above. We will ask people in April and July to confirm their attendance. There will be no cost to attending the lectures.

Study Courses for 2025

You will be interested to know that the decision was taken at the Committee meeting on November 29th to purchase two of the four Study Group for 2025.

The two chosen were The Shaping of the Modern Mind and Resources for the Future. This choice was based on the most popular by the number of names we received for each topic. Please remember, you can add your name to either or both Study Groups at any time. The courses will be purchased in mid-December.

The day & time for each Study Group Meeting will be determined in February next year after the AGM.

Regards, Richard Naylor



Special Interest Group

Botany Group's visit to the
Richmond Community Gardens this month.





Christmas is just around the corner. As we prepare for the holiday, it is important to remember those families in our community who are having difficulty. At our December meeting we can help them enjoy their Christmas dinner by donating food that is special for the season.



A sincere thank-you to our members for their continued support of the Foodbanks and knitting wool community projects throughout the year.

Foodbanks

We are continuing to collect cans and/or packaged food, including baby food, as well as fresh food such as fruits and vegetables at our monthly meeting.

Please place your contributions in the boxes in the entrance foyer. Thanks for your contributions.



Knitting Wool

The wool is used by volunteer knitters to crochet blankets or knit jerseys for pre-schoolers. Finished items are mainly given to the Plunket Outreach programme, Salvation Army programme and other charities as needed. Please contact Naida Murray on 338 5030 if you have any questions, or check at our monthly meeting.

Would you like to be a **volunteer knitter and/or crocheter** making blankets and jerseys for pre-schoolers? Please let Naida know on 338 5030

*We wish all our members and their families
a happy Christmas and a
happy, safe, and healthy New Year.*

From the Port Hills U3A Committee

Helene Mautner
for the Port Hills U3A Committee
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